

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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A
1. A solid-state imaging apparatus, comprising:

a solid-state image sensor having a plurality of light
5 receiving elements arrayed thereon, for accumulating in each of
the plurality of light receiving elements information charges
according to a received object image;

a driving circuit for discharging the information charges
accumulated in each of the plurality of light receiving elements
10 of the solid-state image sensor, and for outputting, after a
predetermined period, information charges accumulated in each of
the plurality of light receiving elements whereby an image signal
according to the information charges is obtained;

first exposure information generating circuit for detecting
15 a level of the image signal in a predetermined cycle to generate
first exposure information which is increased or decreased based
on a detection result;

second exposure information generating circuit for
calculating second exposure information based on the level of the
20 image signal;

selecting circuit for selecting either the first exposure
information or the second exposure information; and

timing control circuit for setting discharge timing and output
timing to the driving circuit;

25 wherein

the selecting circuit selects the second exposure information

during a predetermined period, and subsequently selects the first exposure information.

2. A solid-state imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
5 the selection circuit continuously selects the second exposure information during a predetermined period in response to rise of power.

3. A solid-state imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
10 the selecting circuit continuously selects the second exposure information during a predetermined period in response to a trigger given at a desired timing.

4. A solid-state imaging apparatus , comprising:

15 a solid-state image sensor having a plurality of light receiving elements arrayed thereon, for accumulating in each of the plurality of light receiving elements information charges according to a received object image;

20 a driving circuit for discharging the information charges accumulated in each of the plurality of light receiving elements of the solid-state image sensor, and for subsequently resuming accumulation of the information charges in each of the plurality of light receiving elements to read, after a period according to exposure information, the information charges accumulated whereby
25 an image signal according to the information charges is obtained;

a level detection circuit for detecting a brightness level

of an image based on the image signal;

first exposure information generating circuit for comparing the brightness level and a predetermined brightness reference value according to suitable exposure condition to generate first exposure information which is increased or decreased based on a comparison result;

second exposure information generating circuit for calculating second exposure information according to a predetermined target brightness level based on a current brightness level and current exposure information;

selecting circuit for selecting either the first exposure information of the second exposure information; and

timing control circuit for setting a discharge timing and a read timing for the information charges to be discharged and read from the driving circuit, respectively;

wherein

the selection circuit selects the second exposure information during a predetermined period, and subsequently selects the first exposure information.

5. A solid-state imaging apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the selection circuit continuously selects the second exposure information during a predetermined period in response to rise of power.

6. A solid-state imaging apparatus according to claim 4, wherein

the selecting circuit continuously selects the second exposure information during a predetermined period in response to a trigger given at a desired timing.

5 7. A solid-state imaging apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the second exposure information generating circuit continuously generates the second exposure information for every vertical scanning period during at least the predetermined period.

10 8. A solid-state imaging apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the first exposure information generating circuit updates the first exposure information every vertical scanning period.